

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3672

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4094

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PORG, TU, PLO, UNGA

SUBJECT: MFA VIEWS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, THE PLO, THE NON-ALIGNED
SUMMIT

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL DESCRIBES ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AS COMPLETE

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SUCCESS

TURKEY'S ROLE ENHANCED AND ITS CYPRUS POLICY SUPPORTED. ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS AT THE CONFERENCE WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE ACCEPTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. REGARDLESS, TURKEY HAD RESERVED HER POSITION AND WOULD NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. TURKISH DECISION TO PERMIT PLO TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN ANKARA IS A LOGICAL CULMINATION OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1965. PLO OFFICE WILL BE SMALL, BUT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS. TURKEY HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER IT WILL SEEK TO ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 24, SOLMAZ UNAYDIN, MFA CHIEF OF MIDDLE-EASTERN AFFAIRS, SAID THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS IN TURKISH TERMS:

A. IT ENHANCED THE POSITION OF TURKEY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

B. IT WAS NOT MARRED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES (THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS THE ERITREAN ISSUE WHICH ALTHOUGH CONTENTIOUS WAS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE AND WAS RESOLVED.)

C. IT RESULTED IN A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT FOR TURKEY'S CYPRUS POLICY. WITH REGARD TO THE LAST POINT, UNAYDIN SAID GOT HAD DECIDED TO MAKE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT AT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONE FORUM WHERE TURKEY COULD ARGUE ITS CASE WITHOUT GREEK OR GREEK CYPRIOT INTERFERENCE. SHE SAID THE GOT WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT ON CYPRUS RECEIVED AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE VOTING PATTERN OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE NON-ALIGNED CUMMIT IN COLOMBO AND LATER AT THE UNGA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT TURKISH ACTIONS AT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT AFFECT TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST-- SPECIFICALLY THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE OF ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS MIGHT HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE U.S. CONGRESS--UNAYDIN RESPONDED WITH THREE POINTS: THE FIRST WAS AN EMOTIONAL REACTION TO WHAT SHE CHOSE TO INTERPRET AS A SUGGESTION THAT TURKEY SHOULD CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PLEASE THE GREEK AND JEWISH LOBBIES

IN THE U.S. SHE ASSERTED THAT TURKEY COULD NOT CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN SUCH A MANNER. THE SECOND WAS THAT THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE THAT THAD BEEN PASSED AT PREVIOUS CONFERENCES; THUS TURKEY HAD ACCEPTED NOTHING NEW-- AND MOREOVER AS HOST OF THE CONFERENCE, COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO OBJECT TO RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS. (ACCORDING TO UNAYDIN, THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT

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DIFFERENCES FROM RESOLUTIONS OF PAST YEARS WERE THE ERITREAN RESOLUTION WHICH WAS SUBSTANTIALLY Milder THAN PREVIOUS VERSIONS AND THE CYPRUS RESOLUTION WHICH HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AT PREVIOUS CONFERENCES. SHE CLAIMED THE RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE THAT HAD BEEN PASSED THE PREVIOUS YEAR AT JIDDA.) HER THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE WAS THAT TURKEY HAD, AS IT NORMALLY DOES, SUBMITTED A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE RESERVING ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE

RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF WHICH MIGHT BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE TURKISH CONSTITUTION OR TFN BASIC TENETS OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. THEREFORE, SHE SAID, MHURKEY HAS NO INTENT OF SEVERING ITS RELATIONS

WITH ISRAEL; IN FACT, "THE ARABS DON'T EVEN TALK TO US ABOUT IT ANYMORE." WITH RESPECT TO EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNGA, UNAYDIN SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR TURKEY TO TAKE A DEFINITE POSITION AND ITS ULTIMATE POSITION WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND ISRAEL AT THE TIME, AND ON THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI EXPULSION FROM THE UNGA. TURKEY WOULD NOT, SHE IMPLIED, RESIST JUMPING ON A BANDWAGON BUT WAS HOPEFUL ONE WOULD NOT COME BY.

3. UNAYDIN, WHO HAD TOLD EMBOFF IN APRIL THAT SHE DID NOT EXPECT AN EARLY TURKISH DECISION ON ALLOWING THE PLO TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN ANKARA

SAID SHE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, SHE SAID THE DECISION WAS THE LOGICAL CULMINATION OF TURKEY'S POLICY OF EXPANDING AND IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH HER MIDDLE EASTERN NEIGHBORS. UNAYDIN THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN EXPLANATION (WHICH HAS RECENTLY BECOME FASHIONABLE IN ANKARA) THAT GEOPOLITICS DICTATES THAT TURKEY BE NEITHER OF THE WEST NOR THE EAST, BUT BE A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO. DEVELOPING ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS "GEOPOLITICAL REALITY," UNAYDIN EXPLAINED THAT TURKEY HAD BEGUN IN 1965 TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD. SINCE THE PLO HAD BECOME VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE ARAB WORLD, TURKEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEVELOP CLOSER RELATIONS WITH IT.

4. ASKED IF THE PLO HAD AGREED TO STOP CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN TURKEY, UNAYDIN SAID IT HAD AND SHE WAS "ALMOST CERTAIN" IT WOULD KEEP ITS PROMISE. SHE WAS LESS CONFIDENT THAT THE PLO WOULD ABIDE BY

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THE CYPRUS RESOLUTION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND SUPPORT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION AT COLOMBO. NEVERTHELESS, SHE SAID SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THE STATUS OF THE PLO OFFICE IN ANKARA WOULD BE CONDITIONED ON PLO PERFORMANCE AT COLOMBO. PLO REPRESENTATIVES ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT ANKARA IN MID-JUNE TO ARRANGE FINAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE OPENING OF THE OFFICE. UNAYDIN SAID THE BASIC DECISIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. THE OFFICE WILL BE STAFFED BY TWO PERSONS WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS. IT WILL THEREFORE BE A SMALL OFFICE, BUT ACCORDING TO UNAYDIN, IT WILL BE THE FIRST PLO OFFICE IN A "EUROPEAN" COUNTRY TO BE OUT FROM UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE ARAB LEAGUE OR SOME UN AGENCY. SHE SAID THE PLO CONSIDERS THIS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AND HOPES IT WILL LEAD TO THE OPENING OF OTHER SIMILAR OFFICES. UNAYDIN OPINED THAT ATHENS WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW ANKARA'S LEAD VERY SOON.

5. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION ABOUT TURKEY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO, UNAYDIN SAID SHE DID NOT BELIEVE A FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. SHE SAID THE GOT WAS STILL INTERESTED IN BEING ACCORDED GUEST STATUS, BUT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE OFFERED. SINCE THE GOT DID NOT WANT TO CREATE A CONTROVERSY, IT MIGHT DECIDE TO DROP THE IDEA. MOREOVER, AS A RESULT OF THE ISTANBUL CONVERENCE, THE TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION WOULD BE PRESENTED AT COLOMBO BY THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, SO TURKISH ATTENDANCE AT COLOMBO IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS BEFORE.
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